

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KIRILENKO AND MAZUROV RISE IN LEADERSHIP STATUS RANKING

REF: MOSCOW 6710, MAY 6, 1974

1. TABULATIONS OF THE NOMINATIONS OF THE TOP SOVIET
POLITICAL LEADERS IN LOCAL ELECTION DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN
COMPILED FROM THE SOVIET CENTRAL AND REPUBLIC PRESS,
AND AS IN 1974 (REFTEL) REVEAL SOVIET'S SELF-ADMINISTERED
POLITICAL PECKING ORDER. TWO TABULATIONS HAVE BEEN
MADE: FIRST IS DRAWN SOLELY FROM PRAVDA REPORTAGE AND
GIVES ONLY APPROXIMATE PICTURE OF LEADERSHIP STANDINGS.
SECOND TABULATION IS NATIONAL TOTAL AND REVEALS GRADATIONS
AND SUBTLETIES OF GREAT INTEREST.

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2. PRAVDA TABULATION GIVES BREZHNEV 26 NOMIATIONS;
13 EACH TO PODGORNY AND KOSYGIN; 4 EACH TO KIRILENKO
ANS SUSLOV; 2 EACH FOR REMAINING FULL MEMBERS OF
POLITBURO; CANDIDATE MEMBERS AND CPSU SECRETAREIS
GET 1 EACH.

3. NATIONAL TABULATION REVELAS FOLLOWING:
BREZHNEV - 137; PODGORNY - 73; KOSYGIN - 69;
KIRILENKO - 44; SUSLOV - 40; MAZUROV - 28;
KULADOV - 24; GRECHKO AND PELSHE - 22; GROMYKO - 18;
ANDROPOV - 17. POLYANSKIY - 16; SCHCHERBITSKIY - 14;
KUAYEV - 11; GRISHIN - 6; USTINOV - 9; DEMICHEV
AND PONOMAREV 8; MASHEROV, RASHIDOV AND SOLOMENTSEV - 2;
ROMANOV - 1; KAPITONOV - 10; DOLGIKH - 9;
KATUSHEV - 8.

4. THE PATTERN OF NOMINATIONS OF BREZHNEV BY
UNION REPUBLIC FOLLOWS: RSFSR - 18; ARMENIA - 5;
AZERBAYDZHAN - 2; BELORUSSIA - 6; ESTONIA - 16;
GEORGIA - 3; KAZAKHSTAN - 19; KIRGIZIA - 8; LATVIA - 1;
LITHUANIA - 4; MOLDAVIA - 18; UZBEKISTAN 5;
TADZHIKISTAN - 6; TURKMENISTAN - 5; UKRAINE - 22.

5. COMMENT: WHAT THESE NUMBERS BOIL DOWN TO IS AN
IMPROVEMENT IN STANDING FOR KIRILENKO WHO IN 1975
FORGES AHEAD OF SUSLOV WHEREAS IN 1974 HE WAS
3 VOTES BEHIND HIM. MAZUROV HAS PUSHED AHEAD OF
KULAKOV THIS YEAR. THE OTHER STANDINGS ARE NOT
MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF LAST YEAR.

5. THE REPUBLIC TALLIES FOR BREZHNEV MAKE SENSE
FOR THE RSFSR, UKRAINE, KAZAKHSTAN, AND MOLDAVIA,
BUT ESTONIA IS AN ANOMALY. WE KNOW OF NO FACT TO
JUSTIFY 16 NOMINATIONS FOR BREZHNEV FROM THE SMALLEST
SOVIET REPUBLIC. END COMMENT.

6. A FURTHER INDICATION OF STATUS COMES THIS YEAR IN
THE ORDER OF APPEARANCES OF THE TOP LEADERS AS THEY
GIVE THEIR PRE-ELCTION SPEECHES. THE ROUND OF
SPEECHES OPENED MAY 27 WITH KUNAYEV AND ROMANOV, AND
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DOLGIKH AND MASHEROV SPOKE ON MAY 28. LAST YEAR'S
STATUS HAS DROPPED OR HE HAS SCHEDULING PROBLEMS SINCE
HE WAS TO SPEAK AMONG THE TOP THIRD IN 1974 (JUNE 10)
BUT FELL ILL.
STOESSEL

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